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REMARKS

With respect to the requirement for a new oath or declaration based on the notice dated 8/9/04, this notice was in error since the residence of applicant was provided in the original declaration filed with the application. See enclosed copy.

Claims 2 - 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 - 25 remain in the application with claims 16 - 18 being the only independent claims.

Claim 17 is original claim 9 rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the examiner, and should now be allowable. Claims 19 - 25 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17 and should also be allowable.

Claim 16 is original claim 7 rewritten in independent form and further amended. Claim 16, lines 9 and 10, require "means for restricting each player's view of the game board **throughout** the game" [Emphasis added]. This structure is not disclosed by Zhang since the sheltering boards 31, 32, 33 are only used during the disposing stage of the game (see col. 2, lines 34 - 68) and not used "**throughout** the game" as required in claim 16. The use of applicant's mirrors increases the difficulty of playing the game (see the Specification page 2, lines 13 - 15, page 5, lines 17 - 23, and page 6, lines 1 - 16). An opaque structure, such as used in Zhang, would not produce the versatility that applicant's mirrors introduce to the game even if it were used "**throughout** the game" which it clearly is not. Therefore, the rejection over Zhang should be withdrawn.

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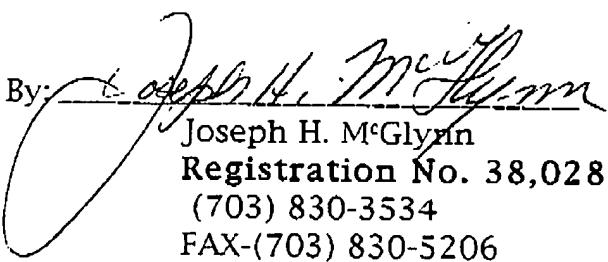
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With respect to the rejection of claim 12 (now claim 18) as anticipated by Zhang, this rejection is respectfully traversed. In the rejection the examiner states, "Zhang teaches each piece on either side covered". However, this is not what is required in claim 18. Claim 18, line 10 states, "wherein **each** of said playing pieces is provided with a cover" [Emphasis added]. In Zhang there is only one cover 31, 32, 33 (see Fig. 3) for all of the playing pieces 2 on each side of the board. Zhang does not disclose that "**each** of said playing pieces is provided with a cover". Therefore, there is a limitation in the claim that is not disclosed in the reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

From the above mentioned remarks and amendments, the Examiner's rejections and objections are thought to be overcome. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore an early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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